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"Malta, as the means of preventing the French from obtaining possession of Egypt, is of infinite importance to the strength and security of our empire in India."—LORD MELVILLE'S Speech, 23d May, 1803.

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SUMMARY OF POLITICS.

WAR IN EGYPT —It appears, from the statements in the public papers, that the detachment of the English army, which took possession of *Alexandria* some time ago, has, by an inferior detachment, made an attack upon *Rosetta*, in which they have not only failed of success, but the lives of 1,400 men have been lost, including that of the Major General commanding the attack, and whose name, it would appear, was **WAUCHOP**. —Upon this occasion, as upon that of every naval or military action, whether successful, or unsuccessful, and whether we take a part in it or not, the practice of the daily prints, almost, if not quite, all of which are, in effect, sold to one or the other of the two factions, who are struggling for the good things of the country; upon all such occasions, the invariable practice of these prints is to begin their remarks with something in general terms, with something, in which most men may be supposed to agree, and then to fall, without much taste or art in the transition, *into a contrast between the late and the present ministry*, first imputing the good or the evil, whichever it may be, to the faction which it suits their purpose to impute it to, and never failing to end with reproaches, more or less bitter, against the faction to which the writer is opposed, the whole thing bearing, with the exception of the wit, a strong resemblance to one of the Lottery Advertisements of Mr. Bish. —But, though this way of making use of the intelligence of important events may suit such writers, though they may desire to convert every thing to their selfish purposes, as it becomes not to make such use of such intelligence; but, on the contrary, to consider what were the causes, which led to the event in question, and how the event is likely to affect us. —Whether the capture of *Alexandria*, and the consequent attack upon *Rosetta*, took place in pursuance of orders, either special or general, of the late ministry, or whether they proceeded from the mere opinion and zeal of the officers commanding, is of little importance. They are to be ascribed, in either case, to the no-

tion, so strenuously inculcated by Pitt and Dundas (I like to stick to their old names) respecting, first, the great importance of India, and, next, the great importance of Egypt to the safety of India. The opinions of Dundas, as to this matter, have been frequently declared, in terms much stronger than those used in the sentence which I have taken for my motto, and, as to his frothy comrade, his opinions, to the same effect, were given, particularly upon the question of the present war, in terms so strong, and in sentences so harmonious, that many of the senseless creatures that heard him, were ready to cry for very joy that a war, to cost, as it was *then* said, only twenty six millions a year, had been undertaken purely for the sake of Malta! —That India, as a *territorial* possession, is not only no benefit, but that it is an injury to England, I have often given my reasons for believing; and, I have never yet met with any man able, or even disposed, to controvert those reasons. It has, almost in every case, happened, that, when I have advanced an opinion, upon any subject of national importance, that some one or other has thought it worth his while to communicate to me some remarks thereon; but, upon the subject of the injuriousness of a territorial possession of India, no one has ever attempted to contradict me; and, I shall, of course, retain that opinion, until I am shown, that India, held and governed as it now is, is of some benefit to this country. I cannot, for my life discover, how this kingdom derives any strength, any portion of its means of defence or of offence, any weight in the scale of nations, from the possession of India; while every one must, I am persuaded, clearly perceive, that, to keep possession of India, we are compelled to draw largely from the source of supply to both army and navy, and while it is, I think, equally evident, that all the immense fortunes *brought from India*, as the phrase is, consist of the fruit of the land and labour of England, sucked up in taxes, and conveyed, by a circuitous road, into the pockets of Indian adventurers and speculators, who, upon their return, possess themselves of the lands of

those who have, by degrees, been by the system of taxation, reduced to the necessity of selling their lands, and of becoming themselves, or making their children, adventurers or speculators. I was struck with a passage in the intercepted letters, published some time ago by the French. It was in a letter under the name of one of the sons of the Duke of Portland to his brother, Lord William Bentinck, who, the writer expresses his hope, will *get a good deal of money as soon as possible, and then come home.* This passage, though well calculated to give rise to a train of sorrowful reflections, was so apt a confirmation of my theory, that I could not help being pleased at it. This is the way in which Indian possession operates upon us. First it draws away the fruit of the land and the labour of England, thereby impoverishing the holders of the land and all those who labour in any way whatever; next it transfers this fruit from hand to hand, until, at last, it comes to the turn of those who formerly held land, or their descendants, to receive it in the character of adventurers or speculators. But, besides the poverty that it thus produces here, the money, at the several stages of its passage, creates dependents upon the ministry of the day, without whose consent no share of that money is to be obtained; and, perhaps, amongst all the many sources of corruption none is so fertile as that of Indian patronage.—This is my view of the matter; and, upon this view of it, I have before expressed, and now express, my opinion, that the territorial possession of India is injurious to England, is a cause of domestic oppression, luxury, debauchery, and political corruption; tends to weaken her strength and to lessen her consequence amongst the nations of the world; and, of course, is one of the obstacles in the way of her restoration to her former state of happiness and of glory.—But, supposing, for argument's sake, the territorial possession of India to be useful to England (I make use of the word *England* because I like *one word* better than *eight*, and because I despise the poverty of mind that could, when a change was to take place, find out nothing but a long phrase whereby to denominate a kingdom); supposing this possession to be useful to England, and supposing, which is going very far indeed, that it is so useful as to set at defiance all calculations of cost; supposing, in short, that the territorial possession of India is *absolutely necessary* to the existence of England as an independent nation; still I am of opinion, that an Egyptian war would, under any circumstances, that can be considered as within the scope of probability, be unwise. There

never has appeared any proof, that I know of, in support of the notion, that the French could, with a considerable force, reach India by land, from Egypt; and, upon the sea we are ready to meet them. That the French are capable of wonderful exertions nobody but John Bowles and his crew will now attempt to deny. I am not sure that they would be afraid to encounter the deserts of Arabia; but, I am as sure almost as I am of any thing, that they never could march, give them a century to do it in, forty thousand men to India. In short, it appears to me, that nothing could be more advantageous to England than an attempt, a serious attempt, on the part of France, to march an army to Hindostan. That army would be so much better employed in the garrisons of Egypt and in the deserts of Arabia than upon the borders of the Baltic or in the West of Ireland, that it seems to me downright madness to endeavour to obstruct them in their oriental enterprizes. Would to God they were *all* in Egypt or in India, or any where else than upon the coasts of Holland, Flanders, and France! But, our wise men, proceeding, with scrupulous exactness, upon the notions of Pitt and Dundas, seem anxious to bring back the French armies as near to our own coasts as possible; and, if the commanders in the Mediterranean have, though without special orders, acted upon those principles, who can reasonably blame them?—As to the *execution* of the plan, if *plan* it was, for invading Egypt, it is next to impossible that any thing can, as yet, be accurately known in England; and men should be very slow indeed to condemn an undertaking which has failed, and which, had it succeeded, they would have praised full as much as they did the enterprize of Sir Home Popham. The *loss*, especially of *men*, is to be deeply deplored; for, of what service might not the 1,400 men, lost at Rosetta, have been in cultivating the land or in defending the shores of England! But, this loss is one not at all to be wondered at; and, the mortification on account of it is fully due to those, who insist, that India is necessary to England, and that Egypt is necessary to India.—This loss is a mere trifle, compared to what we have already sustained in consequence of that opinion; and, if the present jobbing system be continued (for it is for the purposes of jobbing that India is most ardently cherished), poor General Wauchop is not the last, by many, that will fall a sacrifice to it.—With respect to the mere military merit, or demerit, of the transactions in Egypt, little appears to be known; but, from the result, one is natu-

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rally led to suspect, that General Wauchop had not had the good fortune to serve much under the immediate command of our illustrious Captain General, the Duke of York; for, if he had taken a lesson or two from him, he, in all human probability, would not have been killed. A random, or exceedingly swift, shot, against which no foresight could possibly have guarded, might, indeed, have caught him; but, such is my opinion, in common with that of people in general, of the circumspection of the royal commander, that I am persuaded that a very few of his lessons, would have enabled General Wauchop so to conduct his attack as to have slept the next night in a whole skin.

CONTINENTAL WAR.—In my last, I gave it as my opinion, that a *peace* would, before long, be concluded between Napoleon and the kings of the North of Europe, placing, in all probability, a Buonaparté at the head of the Polish government, restoring the king of Prussia to his dilapidated throne at Berlin, and obtaining from Russia something that would cramp her both towards the South of Europe and towards Turkey. I should not be surprized if certain favourite *maritime arrangements* were to take place; and, should this take place, our situation will, as Lord Castlereagh called it, be “rather *unsatisfactory*,” though it must be confessed, that there is some difficulty in imagining *how* it could be rendered more unsatisfactory than it now is. —I believe I have said a thousand times, but I cannot refrain from saying once more, that, I am firmly fixed in the opinion, that the French Emperor never meditated a march to the Rhine with more seriousness and determination than he meditates the invasion of England or Ireland. It would be downright folly, it would be infatuation unparralleled, to suppose, that, having conquered all the rest of Europe, he would leave this kingdom *untried*; especially when we reflect, that war, in one direction or another, appears necessary to the firmly establishing of the new order of things in France. Well, then, supposing him to be bent upon this invasion, he will assuredly consent to no peace with us, which shall not, in his opinion tend to hasten the accomplishment of his design more than it would be hastened by war. So that, we have to look forward to such a peace, or to a long continuation of the war; in which latter case, is there any one weak enough to suppose, that some radical change of our internal system must not take place? Is there any one who imagines, that the present system of borrowing can be per-

severed in; or, that taxation will go on, until the *whole* of men's property is taken by the state? By the scheme of Lord Henry Petty, a stop was to be put to the increase of taxation, for three years at least; but, then, the war-taxes were to be mortgaged, and, of course, continued after the war was over, in direct breach of promise, and also, in direct breach of the implied meaning of the laws, by which our worthy and faithful representatives imposed those taxes upon us. What the present ministers may do, or attempt to do, I know not; but, I shall be very greatly deceived, if they do any thing for the people, in the way of relief from their burdens. To be sure, the mortgaging of the war-taxes will make people less anxious for peace; but, if the war continue, *new taxes* must be levied, and, as the necessity for these increases, there must be an increase in the means made use of to induce people of a certain description to support the imposing of such taxes. —Here lies our difficulty. *Time* works against us full as much as the French work against us. Every day of our lives, we become less and less able to continue the war, while the means of our enemy are daily upon the increase. There appears to me, therefore, no means of making such a resistance as we shall be called upon to make, without a great reduction of expense; and, in this reduction we should certainly *begin* with the *sinécure places and pensions*, the whole of which, not well merited for real national services, should be lopped off at once.—And, when I talk of *sinécures and pensions*, I do not confine myself merely to what is called the place and pension list, but extend my view to the *sinécure and pension-list* of the *East-India Company*, to that of the *Colonies*, to that of the *courts of law*, and several others, *all* of which *sinécures and pensions are paid by the people of this country*. —The army and navy contracts is the next branch; the barrack department the next; and the enormous sums paid out of the army and navy money to persons who perform little or no service.—But, how is this to be accomplished? Restore the law for *excluding placemen and pensioners from the House of Commons*, and the whole will be accomplished in a year. This is the root of all the evil; this, and this alone it is that renders our situation dangerous; and, if it be really true, as some persons pretend to expect, that the no-popery ministry are about to introduce a bill for restoring the ACT OF SETTLEMENT, in this respect, they will have the blessings of the whole na-

tion, their rivals excepted, which rivals they would, however, render completely dumb; for, the *object* being removed, the struggle would cease, as a matter of course. The effect of such a measure would be astonishing. The House of Commons would be as dull as a Quaker's Meeting. There would be no discussion, except such as related to matters of real importance. There would be no fixed days for *debating*, as it is called. There would be no speeches of three hours long; and, oh! dreadful thought, there would be no *Treasury Bench*! No secure rampart behind which for the place hunting crew to shelter themselves, thence to vomit their nauseous applauses of the minister of the day. The ministers would then have time to think of matters appertaining to their offices, and would no longer be compelled to study speeches, as lawyers do previous to their going into court with their briefs. The king might, as he ought, change his servants when he pleased, without any commotion in the House of Commons, who have no more business with such changes than the debaters of the Whig Club or the mountebanks of Bartholomew Fair have. — This would be the way to begin to fight France; but, I am much afraid, that this method will not be adopted, until it be too late.

THE EXPEDITION. — Those who recollect the fate of the Pitt and Dundas expeditions may, perhaps, anticipate no very favourable event with respect to the one now fitting out. Pitt had an opinion, that it was necessary to the preservation of his power to be always *doing something*. Hence the catamaran and car projects. "*Make the dust fly*," seemed to be his maxim; and, if it did no other good, it would, for a while, at least, help to blind the people. — But, "whither, in all the wide world, can this expedition be going?" "To Holland," say some; and, if so, we may, indeed, bid our dear friends, the Hanoverians, farewell. What, another *Helder*! No. Our great Captain General is not going with them; who, therefore, shall answer that a man of our own countrymen will escape? The fact is, however, I believe, that the expedition is going, to some part or other of the Baltic, to aid, as the Courier has it, "our brave allies in the deliverance of Europe." Why, aye; this was precisely the way of Pitt; and those, who, like Sir Henry Mildmay, are resolved to support men who walk in the footsteps of Pitt, may very consistently approve of this enterprize; for, I will

venture to predict, that it will tend to the deliverance of Europe in just the same way that Pitt's expeditions did. — One good, however, it will certainly produce, if a landing, and a real battle be the consequence; and, that is, it will give the Hanoverians, who must pray for it day and night, a fair opportunity of beating those cruel ruffians, the French, and punishing them for having seized upon that terrestrial paradise, Hanover, and taking away all the swords and guns and carriages and horses, whereunto they would have added *plate*, had not this latter article been saved by the consummate valour and skill of his Royal Highness, the Duke of Cambridge, who, as the newspapers told us, got off with it at the hazard of his life, a life fortunately preserved for taking a staff command for the purpose of defending this country! Oh, the villains! The *plate* too! They would certainly have taken it. The Hanoverian plate, silver horse and all! I shudder down to my very shoes when I think of it! It must be a great comfort to the "loyal people of Hanover," who were subdued without having time to fire a shot at the enemy, to reflect that the plate is safe. — To return from a digression into which I have been led by my feelings of indignation against the French, and of admiration of the valour and skill of the saviour of the plate, I have suffered, in common with many others, most terrible anxiety for the safety, that is to say, the *safe passage*, of our Hanoverian friends. — To day the newspapers tell me that the German Legion are embarked; to morrow they tell me that they are disembarked. Now they are at Margate; now back at Portsmouth; now they are heaving anchor, and now they are moored again. These newspapers are my tormentors! The men who conduct them seem to have formed a conspiracy against my peace of mind. Scarcely have I read, that the "gallant German Legion," Roman Catholic as well as Protestant, are safe on board, but the wind shifts round to the North East; or, if the wind should be fair, I am told, that some obstacle of another sort has taken place. In short, I have been so long kept in suspense, and so often disappointed, that I really begin to despair of ever seeing these heroes actually sail away, until the war is over. What I want to see, is, these Hanoverians placed down upon the same ground with the French, and within bayonet length of them. I am quite willing to forego the pleasure of hearing them sing psalms in battalion, and also all my share of the security which this kingdom derives from

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their presence. I want to see them measure swords with the French, and I have not the least doubt but we shall soon hear a good account of them.

CATHOLIC BILL.—Want of room compelled me to be, in my last (p. 1040), more short in my notice of M. P.'s letter than I was inclined to be. It must be observed, that, in objecting to this bill upon the score of *military and naval discipline*, the ground has been completely changed. We have heretofore heard of dangers to *the Church*, and of some undefined danger to *the constitution*, which latter M. P. does not appear to regard as in any danger at all from the borough system. This danger as to *discipline* is an after thought; and, though there is something more of plausibility in it than in the base and hypocritical cry of "no popery," it will not, I think, be found, upon examination, to be more solid.—M. P. chooses to suppose, that, if the bill had passed, there would soon be a popish priest on board of every ship of war in our service, though the bill sanctions no such establishment. But, the priest would, he says, at first, creep into the ship in the character of a common sailor. Now, before we proceed any further, let me ask this gentleman, whether he can be serious in supposing, that there is one popish priest in the whole world, who would set out on such an enterprize? Having entered as a sailor, he would, without a minute's delay, be compelled to pull the ropes, to begin to creep aloft, to swab the deck, alternately to sleep in a hammock and pass his night hours upon deck, though it should be necessary to tie him to the timbers to prevent the sea from washing him over-board. This would be his regular course of life. This he must do, receiving occasionally some good sound stripes from the Boatswain's mate to make him wake and move with alertness. Does any one imagine that a month's discipline of this sort would dispose his mind to an open trial of his influence against the power of the captain of the ship? No. This idea of a popish priest stealing into a ship in the character of a common sailor is too absurd to reason against. To have conceived such an idea my correspondent must have totally lost sight of the situation of a common sailor and of the sort of power that is exercised over him.—But, I have heard it remarked, "if once you give the sailor the power of saying, *I won't*, to his commander, discipline is at an end." True, but with *limitations*; for, because a sailor would certainly say "I won't," if his officer were to order him

to jump over-board, or to eat pitch, or to cut off his messmate's nose, would you, therefore, contend that, in such a case, discipline would be at an end? Well, then, if the bill had passed, an officer would no more have thought of ordering a papist to come up to protestant prayers, than he would have thought of ordering him to do any of these things; and, therefore, if the "I won't" was ever uttered, it would be entirely the fault of the commander, and not the fault of the bill; and, observe, too, that it would be a fault which could not, even by possibility, arise from any motive connected with the service of the ship, or the happiness or convenience of any person on board. "Two commanding officers in every ship!" my correspondent never can be serious. It is quite incredible, that he should believe it possible for a popish priest, in the character of a common sailor, daily liable to be flogged by order of the captain, to become the captain's rival in power. Poor soul! He would soon find, that he had far other matters than those of the mass to attend to. He must be of the age of twenty one before he could be a priest. At best he would be a lubber on board ship, and, never having been used to labour or hardship, the chances are that he would not live a fortnight.—In the conclusion of his letter (at p. 1044), M. P. draws a distinction between the *Irish catholics* and *foreign catholics*, with the evident intention of reconciling the bill of 1804 with the objection now made, by the authors of that bill, to the putting of Irish catholics upon the same footing as the king voluntarily put foreign catholics upon. The distinction is, in my opinion, unjust in the extreme; for, I am convinced, that the peasantry in Ireland are more civilized than those of Germany and France in general, though this gentleman would place them beneath the soap-eating inhabitants of Muscovy. But, it was not to the Irish peasantry that it was proposed to open the door of promotion in the army and navy; and, therefore, this distinction is worth nothing at all, unless it be extended to embrace the gentry as well as the peasantry of Ireland.—M. P. thinks it unfair to blame a cry of "no popery," without adducing proofs that such a cry has been prevalent. The cry might be set up *without becoming prevalent*. That it was set up witness the walls of London and Westminster, upon every fifty yards of which "no popery" was written. He allows, that it prevailed at Northampton, Ipswich, and Shields; and, did it not prevail at Liverpool and Bristol?

You find not the very *words*, indeed, in the several addresses and speeches of the ministerial candidates, and in the several addresses of corporations and counties, and of the clergy; but, do you not find, in all of them, without one exception, words which convey the same meaning? Do you not find them all contain either expressions of attachment to the *protestant church*, or of gratitude to the king for his firmness in *preventing that church from being overthrown*? Nay, do you not find the same sentiments clearly conveyed in the Speech of the Lords Commissioners, stating the grounds upon which the parliament was dissolved? Let it not be said, then, that the cry has not been *set up*; and, if it has not become *prevalent*, if it has failed of success, if it has, to use the words of Mr. Fawkes, been "*drowned in the cry of no speculation*," let the good sense of the people, and not the good intentions of the out-cryers, be thanked for it. — My correspondent, however, scruples not to justify the out-cry, however false, if used by the ministry for the purpose of influencing elections and securing a majority in parliament, and, of course, their continuance in office. "*The nature of things*," he says, "*requires this*; they *must succeed in procuring a majority in parliament*." This is plain speaking; but, if this be the case, what is become of that *constitution*, of which we have boasted so much, and which we are called upon to shed our blood to *preserve*? If this be the case, the House of Commons is not the *people's*, but the *ministry's*. There remains but one thing wanting, and that is, the open avowal of this doctrine in the House itself.

THE WRANGLING FACTIONS.—The Morning Chronicle, which is really fast becoming a "*jacobinical and levelling*" journal, has exposed another pretty decent transaction, which it entitles "*MR. CANNING'S JOB*."—I shall insert it just as I find it, with this one previous observation, that no attempt to contradict it has, as far as I have observed, been made in any of the prints of the opposite faction.—The Foreign Office seems, under the present ministers, to be the chosen place for jobs. We have formerly pointed out the conduct of Lord Mulgrave towards his brother-in-law, Mr. Robert Ward, for whom he provided, by giving him a large pension out of a fund never before appropriated to such purposes—a compensation for less than a year's service in an office which brought him two thousand per annum. No answer whatever has been made to this statement; no apology even

has been offered for Lord Mulgrave's conduct. The new men, his colleagues, are glad to let the subject alone, in hopes of seeing it dropped; and the gainer by the job, Mr. Robert Ward himself, has not a word to say. The truth of our assertion is admitted; and Mr. Ward, or rather his wife, holds the pension. This, indeed, is one of the peculiar features of the case. When a diplomatic man, who had long served the country, had grown grey in the service, was obliged to retire, the practice was, to grant him a pension for his life; this annuity to cease when he should again be employed. For the first time, Lord Mulgrave broke through this rule, and granted the pension to Mr. Ward's WIFE, *Lady Mulgrave's sister*; to cease, we presume, as soon as her husband should be again employed; but not to terminate with his life, *or to be affected by his creditors*; and this pension Lord Mulgrave granted, because Mr. Ward had been Under Secretary for less than a year, and received about £2000 for this service! We cannot imagine any thing worse than this. It has only one merit—it is an open, downright, plain job. It does not deceive the public for a moment. It cannot escape observation, like Sir Henry Mildmay's, nor is it susceptible of palliation, when discovered. Accordingly no attempt is made to vindicate it; and the only hopes of the accused parties seem to consist in the possibility of escaping noise and public shame, by allowing judgment to go by default.—The job to which we shall now direct the attention of the public, is also in the Foreign Office, though we admit, that it is not so bad a one as the former. We sincerely lament the degradation to which Mr. Canning has submitted, by joining such colleagues as Lord Mulgrave. We are sorry to see him, in some degree, following their footsteps, and providing for his friends, or the friends of his party, unfairly, when no legitimate channel of preferment happens to be open. We particularly allude to the following circumstance.—Sir Arthur Paget has been sent to the Porte as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary. Of the propriety of such an appointment at the present moment, when this country is at war with the Porte, we have already delivered our opinion. But admitting that this mission was proper, and waving, for the present, our objections to it, Mr. Canning has named the brother of his poetical and anti-jacobin friend, Mr. Frere, as secre-

" tary to it—not as secretary of legation, but
 " as secretary of embassy. Mr. Bartholomew Frere, we assert, has been appointed
 " secretary of embassy to a legation. In
 " the same manner Mr. A'Court, son of Sir
 " W. A'Court (member for Heytesbury in
 " the last parliament) has been appointed
 " by Mr. Canning secretary of embassy to
 " Lord Pembroke's mission, although that
 " noble lord is only envoy and plenipoten-
 " tiary.—Now such of our readers as are
 " not versed in these matters, will probably
 " demand, what is the difference between
 " a secretary of embassy and a secretary of
 " legation? We shall briefly mention this
 " difference. A secretary of embassy has
 " £1200 a year; a secretary of legation
 " has only £500; a secretary of embassy
 " has the rank of minister plenipotentiary;
 " a secretary of legation has only the rank
 " of chargé d'affaires. The difference,
 " then, is very material, both in rank
 " and pay, between the two appointments.
 " The absurdity in terms of appointing se-
 " cretaries of embassy, to mere legations,
 " we should have thought Mr. Canning
 " likely to feel, even if no other argument
 " had existed against it. But the gross im-
 " position upon the public, of creating, of
 " manufacturing offices, with rank of pay,
 " merely because no places were vacant at
 " the time for two friends of the party, is
 " too glaring to escape notice. Those two
 " gentlemen have been complimented with
 " high rank and large pay, not because
 " there were places vacant and men were
 " wanted to fill them; but because there
 " were two friends of Mr. Canning and his
 " colleagues who wanted to fill certain
 " places.—With the merits of these gen-
 " tlemen we have nothing to do. We be-
 " lieve them, however, to be old and faith-
 " ful servants of the public. We remem-
 " ber, indeed, that the conduct of Mr. B.
 " Frere, at Madrid, was a subject of deep
 " regret with all who valued the best inte-
 " rests of this country. But there never
 " was any reason for believing that he had
 " deviated from his instructions, and the
 " blame fell entirely upon those who, being
 " resolved to have a dollar war with Spain,
 " ordered him, at all events, to bring it
 " about. It was not this successful execu-
 " tion of his instructions, however, that re-
 " commended him to our new secretary.
 " Nor has Mr. A'Court to thank his uni-
 " form good conduct, at Naples, for the
 " share which he holds of this great states-
 " man's favour. The job has been done
 " for both on far other grounds. Mr. Can-
 " ning had to provide for his poetical

" friend's brother, and for the son of Sir
 " W. A'Court, WHO HAD GIVEN UP
 " HIS SEAT IN PARLIAMENT TO
 " LORD FITZHARRIS, the new Under
 " Secretary. This was the origin of the
 " job which has just been exposed. For
 " this reason, because Mr. Frere has a bro-
 " ther, and Sir W. A'Court, a son, the
 " country must pay, in the mean time, two
 " secretaries of embassy where there are
 " no embassies, and undertake the burthen
 " of afterwards paying those secretaries the
 " pensions belonging to that rank.—We
 " trust that some steps will be taken to pre-
 " vent this practice from creeping on and
 " becoming general. Mr. Canning must
 " not be permitted thus to create places and
 " reconcile contradictions, in order to in-
 " crease his patronage. If he is, we see no
 " reason why Lord Mulgrave, now removed
 " from the Foreign Office, should not in his
 " new department, make his dependants
 " post-captains in gun-boats and armed
 " ships; or why Lord Castlereagh should
 " not appoint a major in each company of a
 " regiment."—This article, which comes,
 " evidently, from the pen of Mr. Spankie,
 " speaks, as all his writings do, plainly for it-
 " self. Mr. Bartholomew Frere, I saw, about
 " three years ago, with a three-tailed wig up-
 " on his head in Westminster Hall; and,
 " therefore, as it is the fashion to give compen-
 " sation to lawyers for their loss of practice, I
 " think Mr. Spankie, should have taken the
 " three-tailed wig into view. What it might
 " cover, indeed, would be a delicate question;
 " and, I am not sure that the number of Mr.
 " Bartholomew Frere's briefs was ever very
 " considerable; but, it might have become so
 " in time; and, were it only for the loss of the
 " wig, something was due. With respect to
 " Sir William A'Court's son, there was no loss
 " of wig to make compensation for, but, if the
 " Morning Chronicle speaks truth, there was
 " loss of seat; so, if he had it not at top he
 " had it at bottom.—To be sure, the device
 " of making men secretaries of embassy to le-
 " gations was novel; but, if twelve hundred
 " pounds a year pension is to be given, of
 " what consequence is it, whether it be given
 " in this way or in any other? Let it be ob-
 " served, however, that it will be *for life*;
 " that the nation will, by this act, be loaded
 " with 2,400 pounds a year for the lives of
 " these two young men, and, very likely, as in
 " the case of Mr. Robert Ward, for the lives
 " of their spouses, in the winning of which
 " spouses' hearts the prospect of the twelve
 " hundred pounds a year may, possibly, have
 " no little weight; and, thus, in spite of the
 " principles and precepts of Mr. Malthus, Mr.

Canning may have encouraged, instead of checking population, seeing that a whole fry of place and pension hunters may spring from this very grant.—Mr. Robert Ward's pension is, to be sure, as undisguised, as free from all sorts of covering as any thing of the kind can well be. He was under secretary of state for one year, he received two thousand pounds for that, and he gets a pension of *six hundred pounds* (I believe it is) a year *for his whole life afterwards, and for the life of his wife too*; but, then, observe, that wife is the *sister of Lady Mulgrave*, and it is *Lord Mulgrave* who advises the king to grant the pension! What could be more amiable? What a more convincing proof of fraternal and conjugal affection? And yet, I'll warrant you, now, that the "Jacobins and Levellers" would, in defiance of the anathemas of John Bowles, exclaim against this kind transaction! Ah! the vile miscreants! they would, as John and his fellow-labourer Redhead say, "destroy all social order, regular government, and our holy religion;" or, in other words, they would put an end to sinecure places and pensions like that of Mr. Robert Ward, and would thereby reduce numerous genteel families to the utmost distress, even to share in those labours of the people, by which labours they are now supported! Robert Ward is a youngish man; and, it is within the compass of hope, that he and I may live to see times widely different from the present, when which time comes, it will be curious enough to reckon how much I have paid, and how much he has received.

SIR HENRY MILDMAI.—I have now read that part of the *FOURTH REPORT*, which relates to the transaction respecting the post at *MOULSHAM*, and I am sorry to find, that the statement from the *Morning Chronicle*, which I inserted last week (at p. 1027) is correct.—I said then, that nothing but a *flat contradiction*, as to fact, would, or could remove the impression, which that statement was calculated to excite, and which, as far as I can learn, it has excited amongst people in general, of all descriptions; and, many days have now passed without the appearance of any attempt to controvert either the facts or the conclusions.—Nay, while the no-popery faction have been very attentive to combat *all the other exposures* of the *Morning Chronicle*, they have cautiously avoided this. They seem to be hesitating, whether they shall *disown* Sir Henry Mildmay. But, that will not serve their turn; for, Mr. Sturges, the son of the *Winchester Doctor Sturges*, was one of the parties to the transaction, and as appears

from the Report, and, indeed, from his own letter, as a Secretary of the Treasury, authorised 643 pounds to be laid out upon his friends' premises, when only 250 pounds were, by the estimate, required to be laid out for that purpose! And yet, John Bowles and his crew slacken not their cry. Yet, they represent all those who insist, that there is a wasteful expenditure of the public money, as Jacobins and Levellers, as "enemies to regular government, social order, and our holy religion;" though neither John nor any of his crew will condescend to tell us how our holy religion is to be supported by transactions such as that, of which we are speaking.—The *Morning Chronicle* has made bold strides in retracing its late venal steps; but, there is one point which it still appears to shun with great care, namely, the part which *Pitt* bore in this and similar transactions. It talks very well of the pension to Robert Ward, and of the conduct of Lord Mulgrave; but, it seems to forget, that this pension could not have been granted *without the consent of Pitt*. So, in the case before us, it talks of "the *Longs* and the *Sturges Bourne's*," but says not a word about Pitt, who was the man that ordered Mr. Sturges to authorise the expending of the 643 pounds upon Sir Henry Mildmay's House.—Oh, what a mill-stone are the Grenvilles about the neck of their associates! To keep well with the Grenvilles, silence must be observed with regard to the misdeeds of Pitt. Nay, it must go further. Pitt must be occasionally *praised*; and it is impossible for the people to regard those men as sincere, who praise Pitt, at the same time that they cry out against the jobs, which took place under his power, and in virtue of his orders. This praising of Pitt it was that served, with the public, as a criterion whereby to judge of the principles and views of the late ministry; it was that which lost them the good opinion of the nation; and, having lost that, their opponents saw in them merely things to be trodden down.—Down they are, in public opinion, never to rise again, at least in a *body*.—Under this head of "*the wrangling factions*," I shall continue to insert the accusations which they prefer against each other; because, unless those accusations are thus preserved, they will be, in a little time, lost past all recovery, and I have a strong foreboding, that there is a day at hand, when they may be very useful. The factions themselves are hastening that day with great diligence and zeal. They are doing the work themselves. They are assaulting each other with delightful fury, all the merit I claim being

merely that of bottle-holder, in which capacity I endeavour to see fair play. My rather favourite champion, the *Courier*, kept his antagonist under for a long while; but, the *Moulsham contract*, a hit which the *Chronicle* seems to have reserved for a hard pinch, has so staggered my no-popery hero, that I begin to suspect that he will finally be compelled to give in, especially as his opponent is coming on with new hits at every round, while his, poor fellow! seem to have been all tried over and over again. The public appear to derive great entertainment from this combat, which has the peculiar advantage of exciting no anxiety as to which party falls first, the general and only wish being, that, in the end, both may be destroyed.

LORD MILTON'S DINNER must be postponed till my next.—The new parliament opens on Monday. We shall now see the "no-popery" ministry put to the test by the "no-peculation" party, who will, doubtless, move for a revival of the *Finance Committee*. I beg my readers to be upon the watch as to this point in particular; for, if that committee be not composed *exactly* as it was before, as far as that is *possible*, the main principle of no-popery will need no explanation.

CATHOLIC CLAIMS.

SIR,—I perceive in page 1009 of your Register, the answer of your correspondent A. B. to my letter contained in the preceding number, and I confess, I feel happy in observing, that this gentleman is so far improved, that he assumes at least the *garb* of moderation. There has been a period in which A. B. has not been unjustly complained of for his petulance and incivility, but as he has taken upon himself to assert the *improved philosophy of the age*, he has not unwisely considered, that anger and moroseness are qualities not peculiarly adapted to a professor of philosophy, however they might have been *consistent* with a Romish priest in the act of begging a boon, or attempting to convert sturdy sinners like the Protestants, to the true Catholic faith; and he has, therefore, in his last letter assumed a more gentle and tranquil appearance: and, surely, nothing can be more farcical and ridiculous, than for the zealous advocate of so mild a religion as the Christian, to fret, and fume, and storm, because he happens to meet with a man who does not exactly coincide with him in his mode of thinking. But ridiculous as that may be, it cannot produce more astonishment and disgust, than the conduct of the Whigs, who having founded what little fame they retain, upon the exertions

they evinced in effectuating the revolution in 1688, set about destroying the very foundation upon which their almost extinguished reputation has been built; and are the foremost, if not the only men, who strenuously support the Catholics in their claim for power; or, rather, the attempt of one or two Catholics to become *subaltern officers* in the *regiment*. It is said that the whole body of Catholics are discontented: but, because two or three of their leaders, of an *extraordinary patriotic turn of mind*, are prevented from receiving a pension from a country so *profusely rich* as ours, for services probably they might not really perform, but which they may say *would have been performed*, if, like Mr. R. Ward, they had not *prematurely* been *dismissed from office*; how likely, how plausible I say it is, that the whole body of Catholics should instantaneously become indignant, and denounce vengeance against a country, which affords them every other indulgence, except the liberty of their leaders becoming speculators. If the Scotch Presbytery had fortunately been deprived of the same privilege, their characters would in all probability not now have been stigmatised, by recording on the Journals of Parliament, the delinquency of a Scotch nobleman. Sir, I know that this is not the first time the Whigs have been inconsistent; they have long since enjoyed that quality in an eminent degree; at no later a period after the revolution than the reign of Queen Anne, did these flaming patriots raise a ferment for the purpose of introducing Catholic power; not 20 years had elapsed after they had hazarded their lives in the extirpation of Catholic power, when they appeared equally zealous to raise it up again. If this fact be doubted, a perusal of Swift's *Memoirs* of the 4 last years of the reign of Queen Anne will sufficiently confirm it. Considering that the principles of our constitution as established at the revolution, which have been the admiration not of Britons alone, but of every nation in Europe, were founded on the extinction of Catholic influence, it must be matter of surprize, that any Protestants, still more that Whigs, should be so forward in advocating the Catholic cause; but in answer to this strange inconsistency, it is said, the times are different; that this is a *peculiarly enlightened, and philosophic age*; and that however we might have had cause for being jealous of the Catholics in the reign of James the 2d, that jealousy must now cease, as the Catholics continue no longer formidable. As to the philosophy and wisdom of the present age, I shall comment upon that hereafter; but as

to the assertion that the Catholics are no longer formidable, the very contrary is the fact: one of the principal arguments which the Catholics adopt, is founded on their numbers; is it consistent, we are asked, that in these times of peril, we should alienate *four millions* of Catholics, in one part of the United Kingdom alone, from the common cause? If then we are to be alarmed at so great a number of Catholics *without* power, how much more shall we be alarmed when they possess it? But then we are to be lulled into a compliance; and to those who have their fears about them, it is said, that the Catholic principles are quite altered; the sanguinary, intolerant, and vindictive spirit which formed a prominent feature in the Catholic character antecedent to the revolution, is now melted and softened down into a most complacent, liberal, and benignant disposition,—wonderful reformation—but let us enquire what evidence is adduced in support of this assertion,—why, the assurances of the Catholic Universities—most satisfactory—I mean to those who do not object to appeal to a rogue for a confession of his guilt—but to those who prefer experience to protestations, what says the recent rebellions in Ireland? Have they been bloodless? Have they on the contrary not been marked with as great enormities as ever stained the Catholics in periods when their bigotry prevailed the most? and although A. B. has passed unnoticed the *oath* which your correspondent Symplious assured us was taken by Catholic bishops at their consecration, and which will be found repeated in my letter, page 853, we must not forget, that it remains *uncontradicted*; and it is vain, ridiculous; and absurd to attempt to impose upon us with the opinions of Catholic universities, in contradiction to the plain and intelligible meaning of such an oath, and to the manners and habits of the Catholics as they occur to our daily experience. But admitting for the moment that the Catholics are more harmless, quiet, and inoffensive in their demeanor; that the Protestant feels from them no interruption; does it follow from thence that all our restrictive laws ought to be abrogated? Are we to be led away by such sophistry as this? Would it be said, that because under a well regulated police, offences had been so checked, and delinquents so narrowly watched, that crimes had nearly ceased to exist, that therefore you should dispense with the future services of an institution from which such great benefits had flowed? would you remove the barrier which has stemmed the inundation, and still imagine

yourself safe against a future deluge? But yet, if the Catholic has become now so exemplary in all the *nobler virtues*, how is it, that his advocates tell us, that in the hour of danger, he will not assist, but turn *traitor* to the country, that protects him by her laws, not only in his person, but in the free exercise of his religion, in the possession of his property, and in the unmolested enjoyment of his wife and children. What! can there be found a spot in civilized Europe, where resides a monster, who so circumstanced, would sting and goad his country in concert with her foreign enemies! When the Catholic advocates assert such a probability, do they imagine they are enhancing the Catholic character; that they are raising it so much in the estimation of mankind, as to entitle it to any indulgence, any boon, however exorbitant, it chooses to demand? If we would doubt for an instant what the faithful page of history has transmitted to us of the duplicity and intrigue of the Catholic disciples, their present conduct would indejibly fix it in our memories: we know that the sole aim of the Catholics at present is *power*; but how *frankly* and candidly has that been demanded of us? Men who are led away by words, and only take a superficial view of things, would never dream that power was the sole object of those, who solicit for toleration, emancipation, liberal toleration, or, as A. B. has it in his last letter, *universal liberty of conscience*, who would conjecture, that the right of legislating, and of holding the highest official posts under government, was meant, and nothing less, by the words I have just quoted, or rather by those who use those words, which are intended to *veil* what they have not the ingenuousness openly to ask? If a further demonstration of catholic duplicity and want of principle was required, I would just beg to trouble you with the answer which A. B. has given to the following question which I put in my former letter. I asked of those who wish to make catholics legislators, catholics the king's advisers, catholics commanders of our army and navy, upon what principle the catholics should be excluded the throne? To this question A. B. answers, "Liberty of conscience is the privilege of the monarch no less than the lowest of his subjects. James the Second was not *presumed* to abdicate the throne *merely* because he professed himself a catholic. He infringed upon the constitutional liberties of his subjects, and therefore his sceptre was wrested from him by a power to which even kings must submit. An ignorant and bigoted people

"require from their temporal sovereign, "whatever may be his private opinion, a "conformity to the rites and ceremonies of "their established predominant religion." This, then, is the answer, and A. B. has prefaced it by saying it is his *undisguised answer*: now if it be any answer at all, I can collect no other meaning from it than this, viz. that let the *written* laws, as well as the spirit of the constitution, point out in as *forcible* terms as language can invent, that no man can hold the sceptre but a protestant, yet that a catholic, with staunch orthodox duplicity, might be justified in deluding the constitution and the people by professing himself a true protestant, though in his heart he should be a papist. This, then, is a tenet of the catholic faith, exactly according with the practice of vending, like any other *saleable* commodity, indulgencies for dissimulation! And we are called upon to expunge all the laws to which we are indebted for every thing we have left of English freedom and independence, and to admit the inroads of men who profess such principles as these! I shall now, Sir, only trouble you with observing upon that part of A. B.'s Letters, in which he would persuade us that no danger is to be apprehended from Catholic power in so *enlightened* and *philosophical* an age as *the present*. I would here ask A. B. what extraordinary modern acts of wisdom and of justice he has discovered that by contrasting the present with former ages, he has found it to be so enlightened and philosophical? Has he been smitten with the promising appearance of our national debt; with the moderation of our Taxes; or with the *Philosophy* of the *Inhabitants* of *Liverpool* during the recent Election? Has he been dazzled with the wisdom of those counsels which selected an Attorney General, who never had occasion to make use of the rudiments of arithmetic, as a fit person to be the *Chancellor* of Exchequer and Financier of a nation like this, and at a time like the present? Has he been enraptured with the seducing urbanity of a Lord High Chancellor, who in imitation of the two pious cardinals in the reign of Louis the 12th, joined in the festive dance; or, has he been entrapped with the superabundant morality of the society for the Suppression of Vice, who repress the wickedness of the age, by unfolding to the too wantonly—curious minds of youth, scenes of iniquity, that otherwise might have eluded the observation of a green old age; or has A. B. built his discovery of such wisdom and philosophy on the unparalleled *modesty* of the heads of the Universities,

who monopolize immense revenues by imposing on a credulous world, with that preposterous and arrogant assertion, that the knowledge of an obsolete language, which has been long rifled of every excellence, is the *only road to wisdom*? Sir, it is not a little preposterous, when we can say with Juvenal, "*difficile est satyram non scribere*," that it is difficult to write and not satirize the age, to boast of extraordinary wisdom and philosophy; but if we have really an anxiety to possess either, it seems absolutely necessary we should avoid so absurd an act, as that of prostrating the fences, which, with so much labour, our ancestors raised against encroachments, and of permitting our old enemies the Catholics, again to disturb our tranquility.—ANTI-CATHOLICUS.—*Lincoln's Inn.*

DOMESTIC OFFICIAL PAPER.

CAPTURE OF MONTE VIDEO —From the *London Gazette Extraordinary*; dated *Downing Street, April 12, 1807.*

(Concluded from p. 1016.)

Heavy as it was, our loss would have been comparatively trifling, if the breach had been open, but during the night, and under our fire, the enemy had barricaded it with hides, so as to render it nearly impracticable. The night was extremely dark. The head of the column missed the breach, and when it was approached it was so shut up that it was mistaken for the untouched wall. In this situation the troops remained under a heavy fire for a quarter of an hour, when the breach was discerned by Captain Renny, of the 40th light infantry, who pointed it out, and gloriously fell as he mounted it. Our gallant soldiers rushed to it, and, difficult as it was of access, forced their way into the town. Cannon were placed at the head of the principal streets, and their fire, for a short time, was destructive: but the troops advanced in all directions, clearing the streets and batteries with their bayonets, and overturning their cannon. The 40th regiment, with Col. Browne, followed. They also missed the breach, and twice passed through the fire of the batteries, before they found it.—The 87th regt. was posted near the North Gate, which the troops who entered at the breach were to open for them, but their ardour was so great that they could not wait. They scaled the walls, and entered the town as the troops within approached it. At day light every thing was in our possession, except the citadel, which made a shew of resistance, but soon surrendered, and early in the morning the town was quiet,

and the women were peaceably walking the streets.—The gallantry displayed by the troops during the assault, and their forbearance and orderly behaviour in the town, speak so fully in their praise, that it is unnecessary for me to say how highly I am pleased with their conduct. The service they have been engaged in since we landed, has been uncommonly severe and laborious, but not a murmur has escaped them; every thing I wished has been effected with order and cheerfulness.—Our loss during the siege was trifling, particularly as we were not sheltered by approaches, and the enemy's fire of shot and shell was incessant. But it is painful for me to add, that it was great at the assault. Many most valuable officers are among the killed and wounded. Major Dalrymple, of the 40th, was the only field officer killed. Lieut. Colonels Vassal and Brownrigg, and Major Tucker are among the wounded. I am deeply concerned to say, that the two former are severely so. The enemy's loss was very great, about eight hundred killed, five hundred wounded, and the Governor Don Pasquil Ruis Huidobro, with upwards of 2000 officers and men, are prisoners. About 1500 escaped in boats or secreted themselves in the town.—From Brigadier Gen. the Hon. W. Lumley and from Col. Browne, I have received the most zealous assistance and support. The former protected the line from the enemy during our march, and covered our rear during the siege. The latter conducted it with great judgment and determined bravery.—The established reputation of the royal artillery has been firmly supported by the company under my orders, and I consider myself much indebted to Captains Watson, Dickson, Carmichael, and Willgress, for their zealous and able exertions. Capt. Fanshaw of the engineers was equally zealous, and though young in the service conducted himself with such propriety that I have no doubt of his proving a valuable officer. Owing to great fatigue he was taken ill in the midst of our operations, and Capt. Dickson readily undertook his office, and executed it with the greatest judgment.—From the heads of corps and departments from the general staff of the army, from the medical, and from my own personal staff, I have received the most prompt and cheerful assistance.—It is insufficient to say, that the utmost cordiality has subsisted between Rear Admiral Stirling and myself; I have received from him the most friendly attention, and every thing in his power to grant.—The captains and officers of the navy have been equally zealous to assist us; but I feel particularly indebted

to Captains Donnelly and Palmer for their great exertions. They commanded a corps of marines and seamen that were landed, and were essentially useful to us with the guns, and in the batteries, as well as in bringing up the ordnance and stores.—This dispatch will be delivered to you by Major Tucker, who was wounded at the assault; and as he has long been in my confidence, I beg leave to refer you to him for further particulars.—I have the honour to be, &c.—S. AUCHMUTY, Brig. Gen. Commanding.

P.S. I am extremely concerned to add, that Lieut. Colonels Vassal and Brownrigg both died yesterday of their wounds. I had flattered myself with hopes of their recovery; but a rapid mortification has deprived his Majesty of two most able and gallant officers.

Return of the killed, wounded, and missing, of the forces under the command of Brigadier-General Sir Samuel Auchmuty, between the 16th of January, the day of landing at the Punta de Caretas, to the 20th of January inclusive.—Between 16th and 20th ult.; one lieut. 1 drummer, 18 rank and file, killed: 2 majors, 3 captains, 1 lieut. 2 serjeants, 1 drummer, 119 rank and file wounded: 1 rank and file missing.—During the siege; one captain, 3 rank and file killed: 1 lieut. 1 ensign, 12 rank and file wounded: 7 rank and file missing.—At the assault one major, 3 captains, 2 Lieutenants, 2 serjeants, 5 drummers, 105 rank and file killed; 2 lieut. colonels, 3 captains, 8 lieutenants, 4 ensigns, 4 staff, 18 serjants, 5 drummers, 235 rank and file wounded.—Total, one major, 4 captains, 3 lieutenants, 2 serjeants, 6 drummers, 126 rank and file killed; 2 lieutenant colonels, 2 majors, 6 captains, 10 lieutenants, 5 ensigns, 4 staff, 20 serjeants, 6 drummers, 366 rank and file wounded; 8 rank and file missing.—captains Willgress and Crookshanks, and 31 rank and file, included in the above, have since returned to their duty. J. Bradford, dep. adj.-general.—Officers killed and wounded.—killed upon landing; lieut. Fitzpatrick, of the 40th.—Slightly wounded upon landing—major Trotter, of the 83d; major Campbell, of the 40th; captain Willgress, of the royal artillery; capt. Crookshanks, of the 38th; capt. Rogers of the 40th; lieut. Chawner, of the 95th.—Killed during the siege; Capt. Beaumont of the 87th.—Wounded during the siege; Lieut. O'Brien, of the 87th; the Hon. C. Irby, midshipman.—Killed in the assault; Major Dalrymple, of the 40th; Capt. Rennie, of ditto; Lieut. Alston, of ditto; Capt. Mason of the 38th; Lieut. Irwine, of

the 87th; Capt. Dickenson, of the 95th.—Wounded in the assault; Lieut.-Col. Brownrigg, of the 11th, since dead; Lieut. Smith, of the 40th; Ensign Cancern, of ditto; Lieut. Evans, of the 87th, severely; Lieut. M'Rea, of ditto, severely; Lieut.-Col. Vassal, of the 38th, since dead; Capt. Shipton, of ditto, severely; Lieut. Brownson, of ditto, dangerously; Ensign White, of ditto, severely; Ensign Willshire, of ditto, slightly; Ensign Fraser, of ditto, since dead; Paymaster Willshire, of ditto, severely; Adjutant Hewill, of ditto, dangerously; Assistant-Surgeon Garrat, of ditto, slightly; Capt. Wetham, of the 40th, severely; Lieut. Wallace, of ditto, dangerously; Lieut. Johnson, of ditto, severely; Lieut. Ramus, of ditto, severely; Major Tucker, of the 72d, slightly; Assistant-Surgeon Wildair, of the 87th, severely; Lieut. Scanlan, of the 95th, slightly; Lieut. M'Namara, of ditto, slightly.

Return of ordnance, ammunition, arms, &c. taken from the enemy at Monte Video, Feb. 3, 1807.—Ratones Island. Total of guns, 312. Total of mortars, 13. Total of carronades, 10. Total of howitzers, 10 six and half inch. A. Watson, capt. commanding royal artillery.

Admiralty Office, April 12, 1807.—Captain Donnelly, of his Majesty's ship *Ardent*, arrived this morning with dispatches from Rear Admiral Stirling, commanding a squadron of his Majesty's ships in the Rio de la Plata, of which the following are copies:

Diadem, off Monte Video, Feb. 8.

SIR,—I have peculiar satisfaction in congratulating my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty on the capture of Monte Video, as well from the importance of the conquest as from the honour which has thereby been acquired by his Majesty's arms.—Immediately on the arrival of Brigadier General Sir S. Auchmuty, at Maldonado, it was determined to invest this place, and having assembled our force off the Island of Flores, a descent was effected on the 16th ult. near Carreta Point, which is about 7 miles to the eastward of the town. The enemy had assembled in considerable numbers, and with several pieces of artillery seemed determined to oppose our progress.—The navigation of the Rio de la Plata, with the strong breezes which we have experienced for several weeks rendered the landing of troops, and assisting their operations, very difficult, but the place chosen was happily adapted to allow the covering vessels, under the direction of Capt. Hardyman, to approach so close as to command the beach, and notwithstanding the weather

threatened and was unfavourable, the soldiers got all on shore without a single accident of any kind, and were in possession of the heights before 6 o'clock, with such things as the General wanted.—On the 19th the army moved forwards; and as an attempt to harass the rear was expected, I directed boats to proceed close along shore to look out for and bring off any wounded men, whilst the covering vessels were placed to prevent the enemy from giving annoyance, and I had the happiness to hear that all the sufferers were brought off, in despite of well directed efforts to destroy them. In the evening I dropped, with the fleet, off Chico Bay, near which the army encamped, within two miles of the city.—I had landed about 800 seamen and royal marines, under the orders of Capt. Donnelly, to act with the troops; and, as I saw no advantage could result from any effort of ships against a strong fortress, well defended at all points, and which, from the shallowness of the water, could not be approached within a distance to allow shot to be of any use, I disposed the squadron so as to prevent any escape from the harbour, as well as to impede any communication between Colonna and Buenos Ayres, and confined my whole attention to give every possible assistance in forwarding the siege, by landing guns from the line of battle ships, with ammunition, stores, provisions, and every thing required by the commander of the forces.—The distance which the ships lay from the shore, with the almost constant high winds and swell we had, and the great way every thing was to be dragged by the seamen, up a heavy sandy road, made the duty excessively laborious. The squadron had almost daily 1400 men on shore, and this ship was often left with only 30 men on board.—The defence made by the enemy protracted the siege longer than was expected, and reduced our stock of powder so low, that the king's ships, with all the transports, and what a fleet of merchantmen had for sale, could not have furnished a further consumption for more than two days, when a practicable breach was fortunately made, and on the 3d inst. early in the morning, the town and citadel were most gallantly carried by storm.—In a conversation with the general on the preceding day, I had made such a disposition of the smaller vessels and armed boats, as appeared most likely to answer a desired purpose, and so soon as Fort Saint Philip was in possession of the British troops, Lieut. W. Milne, with the armed launches, took possession of the Island of Ratones, mounting ten guns, and garrisoned by 70 men, which surrendered without

any resistance, although it is well adapted for defence, and might have given considerable annoyance. A very fine frigate, mounting 28 guns, was set fire to by her crew, and blew up with an awful explosion; as also three gun boats, but the other vessels in the harbour were saved by the exertion of our people.—It has been much the custom to speak slightly of the resistance to be expected from the Spaniards in this country; and with confidence of the facility which has been given to naval operations, by a prior knowledge of the river; but the battles lately fought prove the former opinion to be erroneous, and experience evinces that all the information hitherto acquired had not prevented the most formidable difficulties.—The conduct of the captains, officers, seamen, and royal marines of the ships and vessels, which I kept with me for this service, has met with my entire approbation, and I feel persuaded that I should have had occasion to express my satisfaction with the exertions of the officers and crews of the *Dionede* and *Protector*, if I had not been obliged to detach them on other service.—I am much indebted to the able assistance which Capt. Warren has afforded me; and I admire the zeal, the patience, and diligence of every individual in the fleet during the incessant fatigue which I have daily witnessed.—Captain Donnelly will have the honour to deliver this dispatch, and is fully able to give their lordships further particulars.—Inclosed is a list of men belonging to the navy who were killed or wounded in the batteries; and also a list of the enemy's ships and vessels found in the harbour, with a return of ordnance, &c. on the island of *Rattones*.—I have the honour to be, &c.

CHARLES STIRLING

[Here follows a list of the seamen and marines belonging to the squadron, who were killed and wounded at the capture of *Monte Video*, Feb. 3, 1807, amounting to 5 killed, 28 wounded, 4 missing.—The *Gazette* then gives a list of the prizes taken at *Monte Video*: they amount to 57. Among them are 8 ships from 28 to 20 guns each; 4 from 16 to guns each; the rest are *Indiamen* and *merchantmen*.]

WAR IN EGYPT.—*From the Supplement to the London Gazette, June 13, 1807.*

Downing Street, June 13, 1807.—The following intelligence has been received by Viscount Castlereagh, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Major-General Alex. M'Kenzie Fraser, commanding his Majesty's land forces in Egypt, trans-

mitted in a letter from the Right Hon. Gen. Fox, to the Right Hon. Wm. Windham:

Extract of the Copy of a Letter from Major General A. M. Fraser, to the Right Hon. W. Windham, dated Alexandria, April 6, 1807, transmitted to him by General Fox, the original not having been received.

SIR,—My letter of the 27th ult. has already informed you, that, in consequence of the strong representation of Major Missett, his Majesty's resident here, a copy of which I then transmitted, stating the risk the inhabitants of Alexandria ran of being starved, unless Rosetta and Rahmanie were taken possession of by his Majesty's troops, I had, with the concurrence of Rear Admiral Sir John Duckworth, detached the 31st regiment and Chasseurs Britanniques, under Major General Wauchope, and Brigadier General Meade, for that purpose.—I am now under the disagreeable necessity of acquainting you, that, contrary to all expectation, this measure did not succeed. Our troops took possession of the heights of Abourmandour (which command the town) without any loss; but, from circumstances as yet unexplained, the general, instead of keeping his post there, unfortunately was tempted to go into the town with his whole force, without any previous examination of it, when the troops were so severely handled from the windows and tops of the houses, without ever seeing their enemy, that it was thought expedient to retire, more especially as Major General Wauchope was unfortunately killed, and the second in command, Brigadier General Meade, severely wounded.—The troops, I understand, though certainly placed in a most trying and perilous situation, behaved extremely well; and after having suffered, I am sorry to say, very materially, in killed and wounded, (as you will see by the annexed returns,) retired to Aboukir, in good order, without molestation, from whence I directed them to return to Alexandria.—This has certainly been a very heavy and unexpected stroke upon us, more especially as every information led me to conclude, that the opposition, if any, would be trifling; and every precaution was recommended that prudence could suggest.—Finding, however, by the renewed representation of Major Missett, corroborated by the personal application of the Sorbagi, or Chief Magistrate, in the name of the people at large, that a famine would be the certain and immediate consequence of our remaining at Alexandria, without the occupation of Rosetta, I have, with the concurrence, advice, and co-operation of Rear Admiral Sir T. Louis, (who commands the squadron here

since the departure of Sir John Duckworth,) detached another corps, under the command of the Hon. Brigadier General Stewart and Colonel Oswald (as per margin*) to effect this purpose, without which it appears impossible that the measure proposed by his Majesty's ministers, of keeping possession of Alexandria, can be accomplished.

Extract of a Dispatch from Major General Fraser, to General the Right Hon. H. E. Fox, dated on board his Majesty's ship Canopus, Aboukir Bay, April 24, 1807.

I have the mortification to acquaint you, that the second attempt that I thought necessary to make against Rosetta, has failed, owing to a great reinforcement of the enemy being sent down the Nile, from Cairo, which overpowered our troops, and obliged them to fall back with the loss, I am grieved to say, of nearly 1000 men, in killed, wounded and missing. Among the latter are Lieut. Colonel M'Leod, Major Vogelsang, and Major Mohr. Brigadier General Stewart, who commanded the troops on this service, is only now upon his march towards Alexandria, with the remainder of his force, and has not yet sent me the details; but, as the Admiral thinks it necessary to dispatch the Wizard brig immediately from this Bay to Messina, I think it necessary to give you all the information I am at present in possession of, and shall send you the particulars of this unfortunate affair, by his Majesty's ship Thunderer, which will leave Alexandria very soon; and as I have not time to acquaint his Majesty's ministers of this event, by this opportunity, I must request you to have the goodness to do it as soon as possible.

Return of killed and wounded of the army in the action of the 31st of March, 1807, at Rosetta.

Killed.—Staff, 1 Major General. Royal Artillery, 2 rank and file. 31st Regiment, 1 Captain, 3 Serjeants, 3 Drummers, 69 rank and file. Chasseurs Britanniques, 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 3 Serjeants, 2 drummers, 99 rank and file. Total, 1 Major General, 2 Captains, 1 Lieutenant, 6 Serjeants, 5 Drummers, 170 rank and file.

Wounded.—Staff, 1 Brigadier General, 1 Brigade Major. Royal Artillery, 10 rank and file. 31st Regiment, 1 Captain, 6 Subalterns, 7 Serjeants, 1 Drummer, 129 rank

and file. Chasseurs Britanniques, 4 Captains, 5 Subalterns, 1 Adjutant, 4 Serjeants, 111 rank and file. Staff Corps, 1 rank and file. Total, 1 Brigadier General, 1 Brigade Major, 5 Captains, 10 Lieutenants, 2 Ensigns, 11 Serjeants, 1 Drummer, 251 rank and file.

Names of officers killed.—Major General Wauchope. 31st Regiment, Captain John Robertson. Chasseurs Britanniques, Capt. B. de Serocourt, Lieut. D'Amiel.

Names of officers wounded.—Brigadier General the Hon. Robert Meade. 31st Regiment, Captains Horsburg (Brigade Major), and Dowdall; Lieutenants E. Knox, Fearon, Thornton, Sleddon, and Ryan; Ensign Kirby. Chasseurs Britanniques, Captains Duhautoy, de Combremont, de Calonne, and de Lafitte; Lieutenants Le Maitre, J. Spitz, de Sault, and Klinger; Ensign Roussignault, Adjutant. (Signed) GEORGE ALREY, Acting Deputy Adjutant General.

N. B. Most of the wounded officers and men are recovering.

FOREIGN OFFICIAL PAPERS.

CONTINENTAL WAR.—*Fifty-first Bulletin of the Grand French Army.*

Warsaw, Jan. 14.—On the 29th of December the annexed dispatch of Gen. Benningsen was received by the King of Prussia at Konigsberg. It was immediately published and posted up throughout the town, where it excited the greatest transports of joy. The king was publicly complimented on the occasion, but on the 31st in the evening, intelligence was given by some Prussian officers, corroborated by other advices from the country, of the real state of things. Sadness and consternation were now so much the greater, as every one had abandoned himself to joy. It was then resolved to evacuate Konigsberg, and preparations were accordingly made for that purpose. The treasure and most valuable property was immediately sent to Memel. The Queen, who was still ill, embarked on the 2d of January for that town; the King set out from thence on the 6th. The remains of Gen. Lestocq's division also departed for the same, after leaving at Konigsburg two battalions and a company of invalids.—The King of Prussia's ministry is composed in the following manner:—Gen. Ruchel, still ill of the wound he received at the battle of Jena, is appointed Minister at War.—The President, Sagebarthe, is appointed Minister of the Interior.—The present forces of the Prussian Monarch are as follows:—The King is attended by 1500 troops, both foot and horse.—Gen. Lestocq has scarcely 5000 men, comprising the two

* Detachment of the royal artillery, detachment of the 20th light dragoons, detachment of seamen, light infantry battalion, 1st battalion of 35th regiment, 2d battalion of the 78th regiment, Regiment de Roll, amounting, in the whole, to about 2,500 men.

battalions left at Königsberg with the company of invalids.—Lieut. Gen. Hamburger commands at Dantzic, where he has a garrison of 6000 men. The inhabitants have been disarmed, and it has been intimated to them that in case of alarm the troops will fire on all those who shall quit their houses. Gen. Gazadon commands at Colberg, with 1800 men. Lieut. Gen. Couhiere is at Gradenitz, with 3000 men.—The French troops are in motion to surround and besiege these fortresses.—A certain number of recruits whom the King of Prussia had caused to be assembled, and who were neither clothed nor armed, have been disbanded, because there was no method of keeping them in order.—Two or three English officers were at Königsberg, and caused hopes to be entertained of the arrival of an English army.—The Prince of Pless has in Silesia, 12 or 15,000 men shut up in the fortresses of Breig, Neif, Schweidnitz, and Konell, which Prince Jerome has caused to be invested.—We shall be silent concerning the ridiculous dispatch of Gen. Benningsen; we shall only remark that it contains something inconceivable. This General seems to accuse his colleague, Gen. Buxhovden; he says that he was at Mokow. How could he be ignorant that Buxhovden was gone to Golymin, where he was beaten; he pretended to have gained a victory, and nevertheless he was in full retreat at ten at night, and this retreat was so hasty that he abandoned his wounded? Let him shew us a single piece of cannon, a single French standard, a single prisoner, but twelve or fifteen men who might have been taken here and there in the rear of the army, while we can shew him 6000 prisoners, two standards, which he lost near Pultusk, and 3000 wounded, whom he abandoned in his flight.—Should Gen. Buxhovden have given, on his side, as true a relation of the engagement of Golymin, it will be evident that the French army was beaten, and that in consequence of its defeat it took possession of 100 pieces of ordnance, and 1600 baggage waggons, of all the hospitals of the Russian army, of all its wounded, and of the important position of Sieroch, Pultusk, Ostrolenka, and obliged the enemy to fall back 80 leagues. With regard to the inference attempted to be drawn by Gen. Benningsen, from his not having been pursued, it is sufficient to observe, that good care was taken not to pursue him, because our troops outstretched him by two days march, and that but for the bad roads that

hindered Marshal Soult from following this movement, the Russian General would have found the French at Ostrolenka.—It remains for us only to seek what could be the intention of such a relation? It is the same, no doubt, that the Russians proposed to themselves at the battle of Austerlitz. It is the same, no doubt, as that of the Ukases, by which the Emperor Alexander declined accepting the grand insignia, because, he said, he had not commanded at that battle, and accepted the small insignia for the success he had obtained in it, although under the command of the Emperor of Austria.—He says furthermore, he had the Grand Duke of Berg and Davoust against him, whilst, in fact, he had only to cope with the division of Suchet, and the corps of Marshal Lannes; the 17th regiment of light infantry, and 34th of the line, the 64th and 88th are the only regiments who fought against him. He must have reflected very little on the position of Pultusk, to suppose that the French would take possession of that town, commanded within pistol shot.—There is, however, one point of view under which the relation of Gen. Benningsen may be justified. No doubt but apprehensions were entertained of the effect which the truth might produce throughout Prussian and Russian Poland, which the enemy were to cross, had it reached those countries previous to his being enabled to place his hospitals and scattered detachments safe from insult.—These relations, so evidently ridiculous, may still produce the advantages for the Russians of delaying for some days the ardour which faithful recitals will not fail to inspire the Turks with; and these are circumstances in which a few days form a delay of some importance. Experience, however, has proved, that all wiles defeat their end, and that in all things simplicity and truth are the best means in policy.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

The Eighth Volume of the *PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES*, comprising the period from the commencement of the last session, December 15, 1806, to March 4, 1807, will be published on Saturday next.

The Second Volume of the *PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY OF ENGLAND* (comprising the period from the Accession of Charles I. in 1625, to the Battle of Edge-hill in October, 1642), will be ready for delivery on Saturday the 4th of July.